

## REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted preliminary to the issuance of an Office Action in the present application.

Applicant submits herewith additional claims 9 to 16 to better encompass the full scope and breadth of the invention notwithstanding applicant's belief that the original claims would have been allowable as originally filed. Accordingly, applicant asserts that no claims have been narrowed within the meaning of the *Festo*-decision. *Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinsoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co.*, 56 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Nov. 29, 2000)(en banc).

In addition, applicant has amended the specification to present it in proper form and language. Especially, applicant has removed any reference to particular claim numbers, and has incorporated the subject matter of claim 4 in the body of the description. No new matter has been added.

When the Examiner takes this application up for action, he is requested to take the foregoing into account.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE:**

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

**Amend** the following paragraphs:

**[0005]** This object is attained in accordance with the invention [by the characterizing part of claim 1] in that the central collar of the bearing race is formed by a single-piece ring, which is provided with a slot and has variable diameter, for insertion in a circumferential groove.

**[0007]** In accordance with a further development of the invention, [as set forth in claim 2,] the bearing is configured as double-row radial cylindrical roller bearing with an inner race and an outer race, with the outer race provided with a central collar and the inner race provided with a central collar and two outer collars, whereby the central collar of the outer race is formed by the ring and the inner bearing race is designed in one piece.

**[0009]** In accordance with [claim 3] another feature of the invention, the slotted ring includes a circumferential outer rib, which is arranged in the groove, and two opposite axial ends, which expand in their radial extension, with the rib being arranged centrally or off-center with respect to the width of the ring.

[0011] [Claim 4 sets forth that] In accordance with another feature of the invention, the slot extends parallel or at a certain angle to a bearing axis, i.e. is slotted straight. Of course, all other slot arrangements are conceivable.

[0012] According to a further feature of the invention, [as set forth in claim 5,] the outer collars of the inner race should be provided with a sealing element.

[0014] According to another additional feature of the invention, [as set forth in claim 6], the inner race should be provided with a circumferential lubricating groove and with one or more radial lubricating bores. In this manner, it is ensured that the bearing can be easily supplied with lubricant from inside.

[0015] [Claim 7 sets forth that] In accordance with another feature of the invention, the ring is subjected to a heat treatment for increasing the hardness.

[0016] Finally, [as set forth in claim 8,] the ring should be coated with a friction-reducing material, for example polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE). PTFE is in particular suitable because of all firm plastics it has the lowest coefficient of friction.

[0023] The outer bearing race 1 has a smooth running surface and is provided centrally with a circumferential groove 10 for receiving a ring 11. As

shown in FIG. 2, this ring 11 is provided at a circumferential location with a slot 12 so that its circumference becomes variable. The slot 12 may extend parallel or at a certain angle to a bearing axis 15. This ring 11 is of inverted T-shaped configuration, i.e. it has a radial circumferential outer rib 13 which is guided in the groove 10 of the outer bearing race 1. Both confronting ends 14 of the ring 11 are supported by the raceway of the outer race 1 and their extension expands outwards in axial direction, so that the contact surface for the end faces of the cylindrical rollers 3 is enlarged.

Page 8, delete completely.

Page 15, after the heading "CLAIMS" and before the first claim add --What is claimed is:--.